

Recently, 44 of my House colleagues and I wrote to President Obama, urging him to act now, to use his existing authority, to use already appropriated stimulus funds to build a national home retrofit program that will create jobs. Some call it Recovery Through Retrofit. Some call it Cash for Clunkers. I call it a sure-fire way to create jobs, and to create them now.

JOBS AND THE ECONOMY

(Ms. WATSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. WATSON. Madam Speaker, Democrats have been focused on helping Main Street, not Wall Street, and momentum continues to build for additional job creation legislation. The Republicans created one of the worst recessions in history and did very little to help a recovery. The Republicans exacerbated the bad economy with tax cuts that favored the wealthy and did very little to help working people. Democrats acted to save the economy from falling apart, to facilitate a recovery and to put people to work.

We will build on the work we have done so far to create and save jobs and get this economy moving. More than half of the Recovery Act still must be spent into our economy, boosting it in the short term and laying a new foundation for long-term prosperity. New extensions of unemployment benefits have been taking effect that will inject demand into the economy. The first-time home-buyer tax credit, which has been extended, will be renewed in less than 2 weeks.

TIME TO END THE WAR IN AFGHANISTAN

(Ms. PINGREE of Maine asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. PINGREE of Maine. Madam Speaker, \$2.5 billion—that's my State's share of the wars we've been fighting for the last 8 years, and now this country is being asked to spend another \$30 billion a year to send more troops to Afghanistan. It's too much, Madam Speaker, for a war that just isn't working.

At a time when we are struggling to put Americans back to work, we just can't afford to escalate a war that we need to be winding down. At a time when we have asked our men and women in uniform to return to combat again and again, we cannot afford to send them back one more time to fight to protect a government that is now considered the second most corrupt on Earth. At a time when we are working to bring affordable health care to every family in this country, we just can't afford to spend \$1 million per soldier to occupy a country that doesn't want us there.

Don't be mistaken, Madam Speaker. When we need to protect our vital national interests, there is no cost too

great, and the greatest Armed Forces in the world will rise to meet any challenge. But this is not the time to pay that price. This is a time to end this war and bring the troops home.

SUPPORT FOR SENDING MORE TROOPS TO AFGHANISTAN

(Mr. PENCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PENCE. After months of deliberation, the President announced yesterday his decision to endorse a request for reinforcements by our commanding officers in Afghanistan, and I support his decision. By calling for a surge of forces in Afghanistan, President Obama is embracing the counterinsurgency strategy that succeeded in Iraq and, if given a chance, will succeed again. The war in Afghanistan is a war of necessity. A decisive victory over the Taliban and al Qaeda must remain our unchanging objective.

Now while reinforcements are critical to achieving victory, the morale of our troops and the unequivocal support of those at home is also important. Our brave men and women in uniform need to know that those who send them into battle will stand by them until the battle is won. Congress should resist the temptation to impose artificial timelines for withdrawal or benchmarks, as they only demoralize our troops and embolden our enemies. Telling the enemy when your commitment to fight will run out is a prescription for defeat.

Congress should also reject any effort to pass a tax increase on the backs of our soldiers. Levying a war surtax at a time of runaway Federal spending is an insult to our men and women in uniform.

THE NEW CONGRESSIONAL TASK FORCE ON JOB CREATION

(Ms. TITUS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. TITUS. Madam Speaker, with unemployment at a record high in southern Nevada, it's critical that we focus our efforts on creating good jobs that will put Nevadans back to work. That's why I'm proud to have recently joined the new Congressional Task Force on Job Creation. This working group will collect innovative ideas and formulate legislation that will put people back to work across the country and get our economy moving again.

This effort is especially critical to strengthening our economy in southern Nevada. Creating jobs locally will require innovation in Nevada's growing industries, such as renewable energy, and perhaps a high-speed train, as well as building a stronger national economy that puts money back in the pockets of potential visitors who will come to Nevada and boost our travel and tourism industry.

I look forward to joining my colleagues on this task force in the coming weeks to find real solutions that will create jobs for Nevada and the rest of the country.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

RECOGNIZING THE EXEMPLARY SERVICE OF THE 30TH INFANTRY DIVISION DURING WORLD WAR II

Mr. KISSELL. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 494) recognizing the exemplary service of the soldiers of the 30th Infantry Division (Old Hickory) of the United States Army during World War II, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 494

Whereas the 30th Infantry Division of the United States Army was first activated in October 1917 and originally consisted of National Guard units from North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Tennessee;

Whereas the 30th Infantry Division was nicknamed Old Hickory in honor of General and President Andrew Jackson;

Whereas, when the 30th Infantry Division was reorganized at Fort Jackson in 1941 for service in World War II, the division included two North Carolina National Guard infantry regiments, one Tennessee National Guard infantry regiment, and other elements;

Whereas, during World War II, the 30th Infantry Division landed at Normandy on June 14, 1944, participated in the advance across Northern France, joined the invasion of the German Rhineland, defended the Ardennes-Alsace, and fought to the final defeat of Germany in May 1945;

Whereas the 823rd and the 743rd Tank Destroyer Battalions were periodically attached to the 30th Division throughout its campaign in Europe;

Whereas the 30th Infantry Division played a key role in the breakout of the Allied forces from Normandy at St. Lo and the subsequent advance across Northern France;

Whereas the 30th Infantry Division is remembered for its role in the defense of Mortain and St. Barthelmy, France, and Hill 317 against a German counterattack in August 1944, actions in which three infantry regiments of the division (the 117th, 119th, and 120th) and a part of a fourth regiment and other elements of the division participated;

Whereas the 30th Infantry Division also played a key role stopping the German advance in the Battle of the Bulge and recaptured Malmedy and Stavelot and its vital bridge over the Ambleve River;

Whereas, in the report prepared for General Dwight D. Eisenhower rating the American combat units that fought in the European Theater, the Army's official historian,

S.L.A. Marshall, rated the 30th Division as first among the infantry divisions that had performed the most efficient and consistent battle service, writing that "It was the combined judgments of the approximately 35 historical officers who had worked on the records and in the field that the 30th had merited this distinction. It was our finding that the 30th has been outstanding in three operations and we could consistently recommend it for citation on any of these occasions. It was further found that it had in no single instance performed discredibly or weakly when considering against the average of the Theater and that in no single operation had it carried less than its share of the burden or looked bad when compared to the forces on its flanks. We were especially impressed with the fact that it consistently achieved results without undue wastage of its men.";

Whereas, in recognition of its exemplary service during World War II, the Headquarters Company of the 30th Infantry Division was awarded the Meritorious Unit Commendation and the French Croix de Guerre; and

Whereas the proud fighting tradition of the 30th Infantry Division is perpetuated by the 30th Armored Brigade Combat Team, North Carolina Army National Guard: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives recognizes the exemplary service of the soldiers of the 30th Infantry Division of the United States Army during World War II.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. KISSELL) and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WITTMAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. KISSELL. Madam Speaker, I request unanimous consent for Members to have the usual 5 days to extend and revise their comments.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from North Carolina?

There was no objection.

Mr. KISSELL. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may use.

I rise today with strong and enthusiastic support for House Resolution 494. This resolution honors the history of the 30th Infantry Division of the United States Army, a division that was founded in 1918 during World War I and extends until today with its service in Iraq as we currently speak. I also especially want to point out a particular time during August of 1944 when the 30th Infantry Division was engaged in a battle in Mortain, France, a battle that proved to be pivotal in our securing the invasion of Normandy and a battle which the 30th Division, for whatever reason, has not fully received the credit for their bravery and the dedication they showed.

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The infantry division that we call the 30th was originally manned by mostly National Guard folks from North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Tennessee. They took on the nickname of President Andrew Jackson and called themselves the "Old Hickory" Division, a nickname which they maintain today.

This division was reactivated prior to World War II and served from the invasion of Normandy in which the 230th Field Artillery of the 30th Division came ashore on Omaha D-day-plus-1. The rest of the division came ashore D-day-plus-2. The units were reunited and fought almost continuously in the days and weeks that followed our invasion of France.

In August of 1944, the much-anticipated German counterattack developed, and the Germans attacked in or near a town, Mortain, France, a place where the 30th Division was at that point protecting our lines.

The generals from Eisenhower on down, the Allied generals, had grown concerned that we were not moving quickly enough to secure the area of Normandy around our invasion beachheads in a way that we could expand throughout France the way that we had anticipated and wanted. The German counterattack thus came with a certain amount of concern: Would we be able to withhold and protect the land that we had already captured? But it also came with a certain amount of opportunity, because if we could hold off this counterattack, then it would create an opportunity for us to outflank the German Army, a maneuver that would eventually be called the St. Lo Breakout. It all depended upon if the 30th Division, the Old Hickory, could hold.

And the 30th Division, taking on the multiple panzer divisions of the German Army, did hold. They scattered into individual units and fought bravely for almost a week. They fought as our American soldiers have fought in the past. They fought bravely and were dedicated against great odds, but they held. And General Bradley was able to send General Patton on the flanking maneuver once again known as the St. Lo Breakout that once and for all secured our beachhead and launched us across France toward the end of World War II.

Eisenhower's chief historian, S.L.A. Marshall, called the 30th the "most efficient fighting division in Europe." The German Army paid the 30th a great compliment in referring to them as "Roosevelt's S.S."

It's for these reasons that we want to honor the 30th and its history and especially to draw recognition to the battle of Mortain, France, a time in which the 30th held in a most important time period for our invasion to be successful and secured.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WITTMAN. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, today I rise in strong support of House Resolution 494, which recognizes the service and sacrifices of the members of the 30th Infantry Division during World War II. And I want to commend Representative LARRY KISSELL of North Carolina for sponsoring this legislation, for his

leadership, and for his deep passion concerning the members of the 30th Infantry.

The 30th Division was a National Guard division made up of men from several States, with many initially coming from North Carolina and Tennessee. These citizen soldiers established a remarkable record in Europe during the operations from 1944 through the end of the war in May of 1945.

So outstanding were their achievements that military historians of the day judged it to be the first among infantry divisions that had performed the most efficient and consistent battle service, achieving results without undue wastage of the lives of men who served in the 30th.

The commitment of the men of the 30th Division to make the sacrifices necessary to finish the mission to defeat an obvious threat to freedom and the security of the world should serve as an example and inspiration to us today. The Nation provided these men the resources necessary to win the war to which they were committed. And our soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines have made the same commitment to this Nation today. We must heed the lessons to be learned from the 30th Division and today fully support our troops and their families with the resources necessary for them to finish the job in the wars America is fighting today.

I urge every Member to support this resolution.

Madam Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. KISSELL. Madam Speaker, I thank my colleague from Virginia for his support and remarks.

The 30th Division, after its historic stand at the battle of Mortain, fought its way into Belgium in the heavy fighting that took place before the Battle of the Bulge. They fought in the Battle of the Bulge. They crossed the bridge at Remagen, and they shook hands with the Russians on the Elbe River at the end of the war.

The 30th Division has returned to its National Guard identification, centered mostly once again in North Carolina. The 30th, as I mentioned before, is currently in Iraq on its second tour of duty of service to this Nation. So the great tradition of the 30th, the Old Hickory Division, that began during World War I continues today as these troops, men and women, serve our Nation.

Madam Speaker, on a personal note, I would like to add that my father, Richard Henry Kissell, was a sergeant in the 30th Division. He joined the Army in the early part of 1941, and he was with the 30th all the way through. As a member of the 230th Field Artillery, he stepped ashore on the beaches of the Omaha D-day-plus-1, and all of the battles we talked about, my father was there.

But he was just one of many that served our Nation in the 30th and all

the other forces during World War II that we call the "Greatest Generation," that came back and did so much to make this Nation the great Nation that it continues to be today.

So it is with great pride and enthusiasm in noting the aspect of the 30th Division and its relation to not only my State, to my family, but to the Nation that I encourage all my colleagues to join in voting for House Resolution 494 honoring the 30th Division.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. KISSELL) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 494, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. KISSELL. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

CONGRATULATING THE SAILORS OF THE UNITED STATES SUBMARINE FORCE

Mr. KISSELL. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 129) congratulating the Sailors of the United States Submarine Force upon the completion of 1,000 Ohio-class ballistic missile submarine (SSBN) deterrent patrols.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 129

Whereas the Sailors of the United States Submarine Force recently completed the 1,000th deterrent patrol of the Ohio-class ballistic missile submarine (SSBN);

Whereas this milestone is significant for the Submarine Force, its crews and their families, the United States Navy, and the entire country;

Whereas this milestone was reached through the combined efforts and impressive achievements of all of the submariners who have participated in such patrols since the first patrol of USS Ohio (SSBN 726) in 1982;

Whereas, as a result of the dedication and commitment to excellence of the Sailors of the United States Submarine Force, ballistic missile submarines have always been ready and vigilant, reassuring United States allies and deterring anyone who might seek to do harm to the United States or United States allies;

Whereas the national maritime strategy of the United States recognizes the critical need for strategic deterrence in today's uncertain world;

Whereas the true strength of the ballistic missile submarine lies in the extremely talented and motivated Sailors who have voluntarily chosen to serve in the submarine community; and

Whereas the inherent stealth, unparalleled firepower, and nearly limitless endurance of

the ballistic missile submarine provide a credible deterrence for any enemies that would seek to use force against the United States or United States allies: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That Congress—

(1) congratulates the Sailors of the United States Submarine Force upon the completion of 1,000 Ohio-class ballistic missile submarine (SSBN) deterrent patrols; and

(2) honors and thanks the crews of ballistic missile submarines and their devoted families for their continued dedication and sacrifice.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. KISSELL) and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WITTMAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. KISSELL. Madam Speaker, I request unanimous consent for Members to be able to extend and revise their remarks during the next 5 days.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from North Carolina?

There was no objection.

Mr. KISSELL. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, it is with great enthusiasm that I rise in support of House Concurrent Resolution 129, and I want to thank Representative DICKS from Washington for his work in bringing this resolution to the floor. It is an opportunity for us as a House of Representatives to congratulate the Navy and the sailors of our ballistic submarine fleet upon the completion of 1,000 missions, that's 1,000 missions of deterrence and protecting our Nation. This silent service, the Ohio-class submarine, the highest of technology, the greatest of sailors, and the most stealthy of operations, has been in service protecting our Nation since the first cruise of the USS *Ohio* in 1982.

This is not an easy service. Only 5 percent of all our sailors are qualified to serve in our ballistic submarine fleet. The highest of technologies and the advancements that we have seen as a Nation are represented in this classification of service also.

Often times, our sailors are on duty for 77 or more straight days and they come back then to work 35 days of maintenance. It puts a tremendous burden upon them. But, once again, these are the highest qualified of individuals that you can find, because when they are on their ship, they have to have the knowledge of the technology to the most minute of details to be able to service the ship as needed and to complete the mission. And they have an A-plus rating for these years of service during the 1,000 missions that they have brought to us.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WITTMAN. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to share my colleagues' congratulations to the sailors of the United States Navy's Submarine Force following the completion of the 1,000th Ohio-class ballistic missile submarine deterrent patrol. This is no small feat and has been made possible only through the combined efforts of our dedicated sailors, the talented civilians employed at the Trident Refit and Weapons Facilities, the disciplined workforce of the naval reactors, and the industrial base that has delivered such reliable submarines and Trident missile systems.

The ballistic missile submarine, or SSBN, is the critical third leg of our nuclear triad, and in many ways this capability is the most stealthy, delivering unparalleled firepower and near limitless endurance that poses a significant deterrent to potential aggressors armed with nuclear weapons. Likewise, our allies have relied on the shield provided by our ballistic missile submarines, which can operate unmolested in virtually any part of the world.

Yet this deterrent capability comes at a significant personal cost to the Submarine Force, its crews, and their families. Since the first patrol of the USS *Ohio* in 1982 through today, these families have endured long periods of noncommunication with their loved ones and tense waiting for their safe return.

Therefore, despite the extraordinary technological achievement and reliability epitomized by the SSBN, the true strength of the ballistic submarine lies in the extraordinarily talented and motivated sailors who have voluntarily chosen to serve in the submarine community and are among the most highly skilled, educated, and trained war fighters in the U.S. military.

Today we thank and honor the crews of the ballistic missile submarines, the civilian and industrial workforces that strive to preserve the submarines' reliability and technological superiority, and the devoted families of the Submarine Force for their continued dedication and sacrifice.

Finally, I would like to thank all of my colleagues who cosponsored this resolution, especially Representative DICKS of Washington for drafting this resolution.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. KISSELL. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Washington (Mr. DICKS).

Mr. DICKS. Madam Speaker, I introduced this resolution, H. Con. Res. 129, to recognize the achievements of the U.S. Submarine Force for the completion of the 1,000th Trident strategic deterrent patrol earlier this year. It is fitting that we take a moment to recall the sacrifices made by these submariners and their families to defend our freedoms and protect our way of life.